Boosting the production of price controlled medicines

1821. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that over the last one decade, about a fifth of all medicines, which Government have kept under price control, have either smartly escaped the control norms or have been abandoned by companies in favour of imports;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of companies selling price controlled medicines such as anti-psychotic drug Chloropropamide and Riboflavin (Vitamin B1) have come down significantly; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to boost the production of price controlled medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 95. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September 1994.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has no specific information regarding the fact that over the last one decade, about a fifth of all medicines, which Government have kept under price control, have either smartly escaped the control norms or have been abandoned by companies in favour of imports and the number of companies selling price controlled medicines such as antipsycotic drug Chloropropamide and Riboflavin (Vitamin B2) have come down significantly.

However no specific case of shortage of these drugs recently has been brought to the notice of NPPA.

Drug Price Equalization Accounts

1822. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of drugs for which Drug Price Equalization Accounts provision exists;